

REMARKS

Claims 1-6, 9, 10, 26-29, 34, and 35 are pending in the Application. Claims 7-8, 11-25, and 30-33 have been cancelled without prejudice. Claims 1 and 26 are currently amended. Claims 1 and 26 are the independent claims.

Objection to the Title:

The Office Action posed an objection to the title as not descriptive. While Applicants do not admit that the title was not descriptive, they have amended the title in the interest of furthering prosecution of this Application. Applicants respectfully submit that the amended title is accurately descriptive and accordingly respectfully request that the objection be withdrawn.

Claims Rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph:

Claims 26-29 and 35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph as failing to comply with the written description requirement. Specifically, Claim 26, lines 2-4, is cited as claiming subject matter that was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventors, at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. Claims 27-29 and 35 are stated as inheriting the rejection based on their dependence from Claim 26.

Independent Claim 26, specifies, in relevant part: "a semiconductor layer that has been etched after a mask material is dropped onto a semiconductor film and a conductor layer are formed on the gate electrode." Applicants note that this is the same limitation that was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, and that the Examiner has made a recommendation to clarify the claim. Applicant has accepted the language to clarify Claim 26, which now reads as follows: "a semiconductor layer, that has been etched after a mask material is dropped onto the semiconductor layer, and a conductor layer are formed on the gate electrode via a gate insulation layer." Applicant believes the claims language to have been at least clarified by the amendment suggested in response to the rejection under 112, second paragraph, and, as to the rejection under

112, first paragraph, Applicants note that the TFT array substrate claimed is disclosed at least in the Specification, page 6 line 17 through page 7, line 6.

Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 26 is now in a condition for allowance, and request withdrawal of this rejection.

Claims Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph:

Claims 1-6, 9, 10, 26-29, 34, and 35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Specifically, as to independent Claim 1, the Office Action notes the phrase stating the limitation of “a semiconductor film” should be “semiconductor layer,” and further, that Claim 1 should read, in relevant part: “a semiconductor layer, that has been etched after a mask material is dropped onto the semiconductor layer, is formed on the gate electrode via a gate insulation layer.” Applicants accept the Examiner’s suggestion and have amended Claim 1 as suggested.

Specifically as to independent Claim 26, the Office Action notes the phrase stating the limitation of “a semiconductor film” should be “semiconductor layer,” and further, that Claim 26 should read, in relevant part: “a semiconductor layer, that has been etched after a mask material is dropped onto the semiconductor layer, and a conductor layer are formed on the gate electrode via a gate insulation layer.” Applicants accept the Examiner’s suggestion and have amended Claim 26 as suggested.

In that Applicants have made the amendments recommended by the Examiner, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 1 and 26 are allowable and request withdrawal of this objection.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 102/103:

Claims 1-6, 9, 10, and 34 are rejected under either 35 U.S.C 102(e) or 103(a) as either anticipated or obvious over Furusawa (U.S. Patent Application Publication 2003/0219934) [hereinafter "Furusawa"].

Applicants respectfully submit that Furusawa is not a proper prior art reference against the present Application.

The present Application claims priority to two Japanese Patent Applications, JP 2002-365337, filed December 17, 2002, and JP 2002-255538, filed August 30, 2002. Both Japanese patent applications were filed as priority applications to the PCT filing, of which this Application is the U.S. National Phase. The PCT Application was filed August 29, 2003, as PCT/JP03/11057, and designated the United States. The present Application was filed on February 25, 2005, claiming priority pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 371. The U.S. Patent Office acknowledged Applicants' claim for foreign priority at least in the Office Action dated August 20, 2007. Accordingly, the priority date of this Application is August 30, 2002 and December 17, 2002.

Applicants are preparing verified English language translations of their Japanese priority patent applications in order to perfect their claim of foreign priority. These translations are being sent from the Applicants in Japan and will be filed in the Application upon their receipt.

Applicants respectfully note that Furusawa claims priority to its Japan filing date of April 22, 2002 (JP 2002-119965). Furusawa was filed in the U.S. on April 21, 2003 (Application No. 10/420,540) and the application was published in the U.S. on November 27, 2003 (U.S. Patent Application Publication 2003/0219934 A1). The 102(e) date for Furusawa is the filing date of the U.S. Application, which is April 21, 2003. The 102(e) prior art date of Furusawa does not predate either August 30, 2002 or December 17, 2002, which are the priority dates for this Application. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that Furusawa is not a prior art reference against the invention of this Application.

Claims 26-29 and 35 are rejected under either 35 U.S.C 102(e) or 103(a) as either anticipated or obvious over Kawase (U.S. Patent 7,198,885) [hereinafter "Kawase"].

Applicants respectfully submit that Kawase is not a proper prior art reference against the present Application.

Applicants note that Kawase claims priority to Great Britain patent application 0211424.7, which was filed May 17, 2002. The Application was filed under PCT as PCT/GB03/02131, on May 19, 2003, designating the US, and published in the English language as WO03/098696, on November 25, 2004. The 102(e) priority date for Kawase is the PCT filing date of May 19, 2003, which is later than the priority dates for this Application of August 30, 2002 and December 17, 2002.

Additionally, Applicants note that the Final Office Action in this Application cites to Figures 7 and 8, and 12, lines 42-59 as the teachings in Kawase that support rejection of Claims 26-29 and 35. See, Office Action, pages 9-11. Figures 7 and 8 do not appear in the PCT publication. They were added by a preliminary amendment to the U.S. Application, which was filed December 24, 2003. See, PAIR, Image File Wrapper of Application 10/482,101, Preliminary Amendment – Drawings (Figures 7 and 8) and Specification (page 12 adding Figures 7 and 8, and pages 19-21, adding the text cited by the Office Action in the present Application). Therefore, the subject matter cited in the Office Action has a priority date no earlier than December 24, 2003. As noted above, the present application has a priority date based on the underlying Japan Patent Applications of August 30, 2002 or December 17, 2002, which is approximately a year before the amendments to Kawase that form the basis of the present rejection. Therefore, Applicants again respectfully submit that Kawase is not a prior art reference against the invention of this Application. The subject matter cited in Kawase in rejection of this Application did not exist prior to the priority filing of this Application.

In summary, Applicants respectfully submit that Furusawa and Kawase are not proper prior art references because their earliest prior art dates do not pre-date the filing of the priority

applications for this Application. Applicants further respectfully submit that Kawase is additionally not a proper prior art reference because the subject matter cited against this Application was not added to Kawase until an amendment to the U.S. application, which was made after the priority date of this Application.

Applicants again note that verified translations of the priority applications are being prepared and will be filed upon receipt Japan.

Conclusion

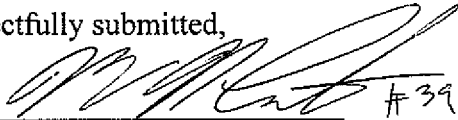
Applicant's further respectfully submit that in view of the above amendment, the pending application is in condition for allowance.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Terrell C. Birch Reg. No. 19,382 at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.14; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: November 20, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

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